Amendments to the Claims:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Canceled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with strikethrough. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (canceled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Applicants reserve the right to pursue any canceled claims at a later date.

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method for remotely monitoring a software application in a packet-switching network comprising:

~~recording a state of the software application by a monitoring application;~~

~~transmitting the state to a Presence Application which indicates and/or further processes the state;~~

registering the software application by ~~the~~ a monitoring application as a first communication partner in a list of communication partners accessible in the network, the software application residing on a first computing machine;

registering the ~~Presence Application~~ presence application in the list as a second communication partner which monitors the first communication partner, the presence application residing on a second computing machine;

transmitting information identifying the software application to be monitored to the first computing machine, the information including the name of the software application;

remotely monitoring the software application by the registered presence application; and

transmitting the state ~~and/or state changes~~ of the software application to the presence application ~~Presence Application as a characteristic which is associated with the first communication partner, or~~ as a message ~~which is~~ transmitted from the first communication partner,

wherein the monitoring is carried out on the basis ~~of the characteristic or~~ of the message.

2. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a control instruction for controlling the software application is transmitted from the ~~Presence Application~~presence application to the monitoring application.

3. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a ~~presence/~~instant messaging system is used for the registration ~~and for finding software applications and/or monitoring application~~.

4. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the transmission of the state is secured by a handshake process.

5. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the registration of the software application and the transmission of the state are carried out using an SIP infrastructure and the SIMPLE extension to the SIP protocol.

6. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~a~~ the software application ~~can be monitored by~~ is monitorable by a plurality of presence applications~~any desired number of Presence Applications~~, and a plurality of software applications are monitorable by the presence application~~Presence Applications monitor any desired number of software applications~~.

7. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the monitoring application which is associated with a software application to be monitored is automatically registered in the list~~, or is found and registered on the basis of the request by the Presence Application~~.

8. – 20. (canceled).

21. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 2,

~~wherein the Presence Application includes a text editor, and~~

wherein the control instruction is ~~instructions are entered into the text editor and~~ transmitted to the monitoring application as an instant message.

22. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the monitoring application receives the instant message and converts the instant message to a control command for the software application.

23. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~registering~~ monitoring the software application comprises:

entering, by a user of the second communication partner, the information identifying the software application prior to the transmitting ~~including a name of the software application, and transmitting the information to the monitoring software~~.

24. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~1~~23, wherein the information is entered ~~is~~ via a text editor of the ~~Presence Application~~presence application.

25-31. (canceled)

32. (new) The method as claimed in claim 1,

wherein the second computing machine receives the software application identifying information, and

wherein the software application is located in response to receiving the information.

33. (new) The method as claimed in claim 32, wherein the registration of the software application is in response to locating the software application.

34. (new) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the software application identifying information includes an IP address of a computing machine in which the software application is installed.

35. (new) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the software application identifying information includes host name address of a computing machine in which the software application is installed.